

III. REMARKS

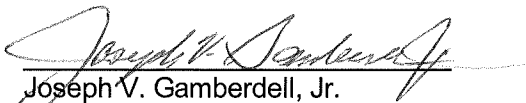
1. Claims 1-7, 9, and 11-27 remain in the application. Claims 8 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 14, and 25-27 have been amended.
2. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections.
3. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 8, 9, and 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 8. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 25, 26, and 27 to include the subject matter of claims 1 and 8.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7, 9, and 11-27 are in condition for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date

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